GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:250
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
IMPORT OF COTTON
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the import of cotton during 1999-2000 ;

(b) if so, the total bales of cotton imported during 1999-2000 ;

(c) the extent of increase in the import of cotton during 1999-2000 as compared to the previous two financial years ;

(d) whether the production of cotton has increased in these years ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the import policy of cotton, in view of increase in production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES

(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) : Import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL) since 19th April, 1994. However, from the current year`s budget an import duty of 5% (with 10% surcharge) has been imposed. The user mills and others relating to cotton and textile industry can import cotton within the framework of the Government policy.

(b) & (c): Import contracts of 10,95,360 bales (of 170 kg. each) have been registered with the Textile commissioner during the period 1.1.2000 to 15.2.2000, however, the details of the actual import are yet to be reported. During the cotton years 1997-98 and 1998-99 import of cotton was 4.13 lakh bales and 7.87 lakh bales respectively.

(d)& (e): The production of cotton during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :-

Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Production (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1997-98	158
1998-99	163
1999-2000	175

as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board in November, 1999.

(f): The import policy of cotton is reviewed by the Government from time to time. Import of cotton has been made compulsory for registration with the Textile Commissioner, from 23-12-1999. Further, the Government has imposed ban on import of cotton into India from Pakistan since 11/01/2000 on phyto-sanitary grounds.